

times the size of his own unit. These are Oregonians whose exertions have earned them an eternal place in the pantheon of America's greatest heroes.

Mr. Speaker, in the years ahead, as generations not yet born pass by this site, they will see a memorial as sturdy and as enduring as the valor of the heroes it was erected to honor. And as they do so, they will be reminded of the sacrifices of the men and women whose glory is enshrined in this elegant and powerful memorial. To the community of The Dalles, Oregon, I offer my most sincere gratitude for the contribution they have made in recognizing the service of the veterans of the Mid-Columbia.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2003

HON. ROGER F. WICKER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2002

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the chairman and the ranking member for producing this bipartisan legislation which will support our troops, modernize our military, and ensure that we are prepared to win the war on terrorism. I support this legislation, but feel it is appropriate that I discuss one unfunded issue that is vitally important to the future of our military. The President's Budget appropriately requests continued funding of the LHD-8 Amphibious Assault Ship. Unfortunately, this bill did not fund the requested \$243 million necessary to continue procurement of this ship.

Our Navy's LHA-1 class "Big Deck" Amphibious Assault Ships are at the end of their service life. Navy studies indicate a requirement for twelve Big Deck Amphibious Assault Ships and must procure replacements for the older ships to sustain this requirement. The past four fiscal years, Congress has recognized this need by providing over \$1 billion for advanced procurement, detail design, and construction of a new LHD-1 class ship. Congress authorized the Secretary of the Navy to enter into a contract for the construction and early delivery of this ship, the LHD-8, providing that it "shall be funded on an incremental basis."

The LHD-8 is being procured under a fixed price construction contract, entered into by the government and the shipbuilder in good faith based on the assumption that annual government funding increments would always stay ahead of the expenditure curve. This would allow the parties to plan and execute design and construction without concern for interference resulting from funding shortfalls. The loss of FY03 funding would violate the precepts of good faith contracting, which is essential for many defense procurement programs.

Mr. Chairman, failure to appropriate the \$243 million requested by the President would cause several negative repercussions, including severe economic impacts in my state of Mississippi. The potential for the Navy to issue a "stop-work" order on this project due to funding uncertainty could cause a job loss in the shipbuilding industry alone of over 1,500 jobs. If funding were delayed even one year, delivery of this military asset would be pushed

back from FY07 to FY08, causing an additional cost to the taxpayers of approximately \$129 million.

It is my hope that throughout the consideration of the bill, the Chairman and Committee can provide the resources necessary to keep this project on the contracted schedule.

HONORING RUBEN VALDEZ

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2002

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ruben Valdez for his leadership and service to Colorado.

Cesar Chavez once said, "We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community. Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sake and our own." Even a cursory glance at Ruben Valdez's life illuminates why he has been named to the Cesar Chavez Leadership Hall of Fame. The hall of fame recognizes Colorado Latinos for their outstanding contributions to civic life. Ruben's contributions to Colorado, the Hispanic community and public life have been extraordinary.

Ruben was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in 1971. A few short years later he was elected Speaker of the House making him the first Hispanic to ever serve in that position. After retiring from the House in 1978, President Jimmy Carter appointed him to be the Regional Director for the United States Department of Transportation. The following year, he was selected by Colorado Governor Dick Lamm to serve as Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Social Services. In 1985, Ruben accepted an unprecedented dual appointment by Governor Lamm to be Executive Director for both the Colorado Department of Social Services and the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment.

At the end of this extraordinary period in his public life, Ruben was perhaps the most successful Latino leader in Colorado history. For many young Latinos interested in politics and government at the time (some on whom now serve on my staff) Ruben Valdez was a pioneer—living proof that having a Spanish surname did not disqualify a person from having a successful career in public service.

Cesar Chavez was a leader who organized the Hispanic community from "outside" the halls of power in government. Ruben showed that another leadership model was available to Hispanics. Ruben showed that Hispanics could also work from inside the corridors of power, not only in the halls of government, but in corporate boardrooms. I think Cesar Chavez would have been pleased by Ruben's success, particularly because it paved the way for so many other talented Hispanic leaders to come.

Today Ruben Valdez is a very successful consultant helping clients at every level of government. He was a well-known figure in the halls of the Colorado State Legislature when I served there, and I came to admire him for his reputation as a respected lobbyist.

Ruben Valdez is a thoughtful and experienced leader. Those who know him will tell you that he is the kind of man you want on

your side in a difficult battle. His service to Colorado has been exceptional, and I am pleased to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring his achievements.

A SALUTE TO JOE CRISCUOLO FOR
HIS LEGACY OF SERVICE

HON. CYNTHIA A. MCKINNEY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2002

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the outstanding record of public service of Joe Criscuolo, a noted social activist of the Atlanta area community and personal friend. Our community is deeply saddened by his unfortunate and recent demise.

A man of humble beginnings, Joe Criscuolo, 84, grew up in New York during the Great Depression as a first generation Italian-American. The hardships endured by the Criscuolo family generated Joe's great sense of concern and sensitivity for issues of the working class. Mr. Criscuolo's youthful concerns would later evolve into a grand scale record of service and activism on behalf of marginalized groups spanning the course of his lifetime.

Joe's high level of involvement in reform movements was matched by his wife Mrs. Goldy Criscuolo's equal zeal and service for progressive causes. Well into their senior years when most of their peers were enjoying retirement and the fruits of years of labor, they stood firmly together against the grain. Wherever people were oppressed, Joe and Goldy Criscuolo supplied infinite hours of service with no regard for gender, race, sexual orientation, religion, or any other social characteristic. Louder than any vitriolic words or opposing groups, Joe's actions spoke volumes to the value of service. I have personally drawn strength and inspiration to wage unpopular fights from Mr. Criscuolo's unwavering altruism for people in need.

A few of Mr. Criscuolo's momentous battles were the campaign to reform the Italian education system, the fight for the Equal Rights Amendment, and the movement against discrimination based on sexual orientation in the Dade County School System.

Additionally, Joe Criscuolo and his wife were active members of the Atlanta Chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW); the Martin Luther King, Jr. March Committee; the Grady Coalition; the Atlanta chapter of ACT-UP (the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power); and the coalition to change the state flag among others. Joe recently worked to support Hate Crimes legislation, to prohibit predatory lending, and to ensure affordable public transportation for poor and working people.

Mr. Criscuolo leaves to cherish his memory a devoted wife Mrs. Goldy Criscuolo; one son, Jim M. Criscuolo; a daughter-in-law, Candace Criscuolo; three grandchildren; two siblings; and a host of relatives, friends and other individuals whose lives have been touched in a positive way.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Joe Criscuolo's exemplary record of service, which is a model for us all. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Joe Criscuolo for his endurance, passion and will to go against the grain.